



Where Kentucky's
WILD THINGS are.....



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WILDLIFE: WHY We Care

When the early settlers came to this area, they found a land rich in wildlife, which for them meant an abundant food supply. Today, we rely less on wildlife for our food and sometimes it isn't clear why we care—or even should care—about all the inhabitants of our land. We've never even heard of some of them.

Can you think of other reasons why we care about wildlife?

10.

We're all connected. If one thing is harmed, it usually hurts something else, too. So what if bees are disappearing? But bees pollinate all kinds of crops. What does that mean for our food supply?

9.

Every creature has a purpose and a connection to the environment, even if we cannot see or fully understand what they do.

8.

They inspire us in emotional and spiritual ways, whether by just watching an ant carry a heavy load or being awed by a majestic elk.

6.

They make the world better. Mussels, which are endangered in Kentucky, filter impurities out of water, leaving it cleaner for man and other animals.

7.

They provide recreation. Many people enjoy hunting and fishing, valuing these activities as ways to build relationships with family and friends. Others like bird-watching or gardening to attract wild creatures.

5.

They provide medicine. Roughly 80% of the world relies on medicine made from a plant or animal source.

4.

They can help us solve problems we might not even yet realize we have. For instance, the marine worms polychaetes could help mitigate climate by helping to reduce carbon dioxide in the air. Yet scientists are in a race against extinction, having studied only about 15,000 of the estimated 45,000 species on the planet.

3.

They can signal trouble. When one species is in trouble, usually others are as well.

2.

We enjoy wildlife and want to preserve it so that our children and grandchildren can experience it too.

1.

And the #1 reason: It's fun! Wildlife makes us say "Wow!"



EAGLES Fight Back!

So often the news about endangered species seems so hopeless. What can we do? The story of the bald eagle answers that question: We can do a lot!

In 1967, the bald eagle, the symbol of our country, was declared an endangered species in 43 states. There were only 417 nesting pairs left. Its habitat was being destroyed, it had been hunted (made illegal in 1940) and its food chain was contaminated.

But through dedicated effort, the eagle population has rebounded. The chemical DDT was banned in the '70s (due to the concern that the chemicals were messing up eagles' eggs), people worked to restore its habitat and eagles were bred in captivity and released into the wild.

In 2007, our government took the bald eagle off the list of endangered species. In 2010, eighty-four bald eagle territories in 36 counties of Kentucky were documented as occupied!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The bald eagle isn't really bald. It gets its name from the Old English word *balde*, which means white. The adult bald eagle has white feathers on its head, neck and tail.
- Sitting on a branch, these birds are 3 feet tall – as tall as a yardstick! If you ever see one in the wild, you won't forget it!
- Although some live year-round and nest in Kentucky, bald eagles are best seen during the winter. Look for them near any large reservoir or river, or attend an Eagle Weekend event. parks.ky.gov/eagle-watch-weekends.htm
- You can keep up with Kentucky's bald eagle tracking news at fw.ky.gov/baldeagletracking.asp
- It's illegal to kill, harass, or possess an eagle or any of its parts without a permit. If you see an injured eagle, don't go near it. You can cause more harm. Report it to a rehabilitator near you. fw.ky.gov/app1/rehablist.aspx

COOL THINGS YOU CAN DO

We hear a lot about climate change these days. Basically, we humans are living in ways that are affecting the environment. Temperatures are getting warmer and that's bringing climate change that can affect plants, wildlife and even humans.

Many of Earth's habitats and ecosystems depend on a delicate balance of rain, temperature and soil type. In the past, climate changes took place slowly and plants and animals had time to adapt, but they might not be able to if change comes quickly.

Humans can reduce the effect on the environment. That means burning less gas and using more energy-efficient technologies.

- ✦ Look for ways to improve your own fuel economy and encourage the use of more fuel efficient vehicles.
- ✦ Use less energy: Use compact fluorescent bulbs, lower the thermostat two degrees in the winter and wash clothes in cold water.
- ✦ Learn about where your food comes from. Buying locally grown food cuts down on the fuel burned to truck it in.
- ✦ Create a wildlife-friendly garden.



GETTING WILD IN THE BACKYARD

It's fun to find ways to bring wildlife into your backyard, especially as new developments project's crowd them out of their native habitat. They especially need our help during the winter months. Here's how to get started:

1. Plan

Decide what animals you'd like to attract. Plan to take the good aspects (they're cute!) with the bad (they might eat your garden).

2. Food

Research and plant the foliage these animals eat. Native plants work best.

3. Water

That can be as easy as putting out a birdbath or building a pond.

4. Shelter

Animals need places to feel safe and to raise their young. It can be shrubbery, a nesting box or a brush pile on the edge of the yard.

5. Space

Larger animals need larger spaces and no animal likes to feel crowded. Learn about the animal before you try to attract it.

You'll find lots of information on the internet about attracting birds to your yard, plus lots of recipes for feeding them!

Here are some basic tips for attracting our feathered friends:

BIRDS

- Research the kinds of birds you want to attract and what they like to eat. Not all birds eat seed.
- To attract a variety of birds, use a variety of different types of bird feeders.
- Place your feeders at varying heights.
- Try placing food on the ground or sidewalk since some birds are ground feeders.
- Put your feeders near bushes or trees so birds can feel safe from hawks and other predators.
- You can grease metal or plastic feeder poles with shortening or oil to keep squirrels from climbing them.
- Clean and wash your bird feeder regularly.



#Hummingbirds

If you'd like to attract hummingbirds, keep these things in mind:

- They like flowers that are red or bright orange.
- Plant tubular-shaped flowers, especially red ones that are rich in nectar.
- Put out old bananas to draw fruit flies. Hummers love these tiny insects!
- Keep several feeders filled with fresh nectar. The recipe: one part sugar to four parts water, just bring to a boil, and then cool in the refrigerator. Do not use honey, or food coloring.
- Buy a mister that you can hook to a garden hose. Hummingbirds love to rub against dripping wet leaves and fly through the mist.

Build a Birdbath!

To make a birdbath, all you need is a base and a bowl. You can find both at the gardening center.

Use terra-cotta pots and a bowl in creative ways to make a unique birdbath. Just overturn the largest one at the bottom for stability. Then you can stack them any way you like and adhere the bowl to the top.

Make your birdbath fancy with paints or use a glue gun to adhere pretty rocks or shells for a special look.



Butterflies

Creating a habitat for butterflies is exciting and rewarding. Think about these aspects of your butterfly habitat:

- Sunny areas. Plants that butterflies like require bright sunshine.
- Splashes of color. Butterflies are attracted to flowers by color. They can find groups of flowers more easily than isolated plants.
- Host plants. Female butterflies lay their eggs only on certain host plants that will nourish the young caterpillars after they hatch.
- Damp areas. Butterflies cannot drink from open water. Wet sand or mud are the best watering holes.
- Basking stones. Butterflies often perch on stones to bask in the sun. Basking raises their body temperature so that they can fly and remain active.



Frogs

With just a little effort you can create a haven for amphibians in your yard. Here are a few suggestions:

- Leave some leaf litter under your trees, shrubs and in the garden.
- Encourage native ground cover, grasses and wildflowers.
- Build a burrow with cover under shady plants where toads can hide. It can be simply an overturned flowerpot with an entrance hole.
- Build a shallow pond that includes natural pond vegetation and rocks around it.
- Set up a light no higher than 3 feet off the ground between the garden and the lawn. The light will attract insects on which toads will feed on at night.
- Watch toads and frogs, but don't capture them.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the yard.

CARDINALS

The cardinal was named Kentucky's state bird in 1926. Only the males are vivid red; the females are less conspicuous, which helps them hide from predators. Cardinals don't migrate, so you can hear their whistles year around.

Squirrels

The gray squirrel was designated as Kentucky's state wild game animal species in 1968. Those bushy-tailed rodents have a mixture of brown, black and white fur that blends together to make them look gray.

Gray squirrels will use old woodpecker holes or natural cavities to live in and raise young. They will also build large nests of leaves and twigs.

They love acorns and nuts, but also eat seeds, fruits, insects, fungi and occasional bird eggs.

The squirrel's bushy tail is used for balance, a blanket, an umbrella, a parachute and to communicate.

BATS

Bats found in the United States feed exclusively on insects. A bat feasting on moths, mosquitoes, beetles and other insects can eat half its body weight in one night! So bats can be good to have around in the backyard. A typical summer colony of 100 bats feeding 200 days will consume more than 2,200 pounds of insects or approximately 600 million bugs.





ARE YOU BEAR AWARE

Boy, bear cubs sure look cuddly! But these are wild animals, after all. Problems arise when the bears hang out in areas that are popular with people too, such as Kingdom Come

State Park and Cumberland Gap National Historic Park.

The trouble is, bears are quick to associate humans with food. Talk about moochers! But moochers that weigh up to 400 pounds can be pretty scary. That's why the wildlife folks urge

you to never feed bears and make sure that when you camp or hike, your food is left somewhere they can't get it – like in the car's trunk and especially not in your tent or on your body!

For one thing, it's illegal in Kentucky to feed bears. For another, bears that become aggressive moochers may have to be destroyed. Save a life. ~~Don't feed them!~~

And if you encounter a bear, stay calm and give the animal lots of room. It probably will wander

away. A safe place to see a healthy, happy Black Bear up close is at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort.

To learn more about bears, check out: fw.ky.gov/navigation.aspx?cid=207&navpath=C130

BLACK BEAUTY

When Daniel Boone led settlers through the Cumberland Gap in 1775, there were more black bears in Eastern Kentucky forests than even the plentiful deer or elk, but the bears were gone by 1850.

With widespread forest clearing now a thing of the past, black bears have come back from neighboring states and have found a happy home in our easternmost forests.

Reports of sightings have come from 54 Kentucky counties, but the typical black bear range in the eastern third of the state.

Researchers at the University of Kentucky, along with the state Division of Forestry and Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, have been studying the bears' return and tracking the movements of 62 bears that have been captured, given radio collars, then released. You can read about this interesting work at: www.ca.uky.edu/forestry/maehrbearky.php

So Many Ways to go Wild

Who knew there was so much to know about wildlife? At the Salato Wildlife Education Center near Frankfort, it's all fun.

Inside, you can get close to live snakes and turtles and marvel at stories of species that have been restored from the brink of extinction, such as elk, white-tailed deer, river otters, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, peregrine falcons and walleye.

Outside, you can follow paved, wheelchair-accessible trails to see bison, bears, and bald eagles in large, natural habitats. And the best part? It's all free!



Kentucky's Forests—Where The Wild Things Are!

Western Kentucky Hardwood Bottomland:

Four river systems meet in Western Kentucky. These systems and the wetland and bottomland forests around them provide habitat for many animals. The cypress swamps here are found nowhere else in the state. These wetland areas are also important for a healthy environment since they store floodwaters, trap sediment (soil in the water), and clean water by naturally filtering it. The Baldcypress is where the wild things are in western Kentucky!

Baldcypress is a very important tree in the swampland ecosystem. It is valuable for wildlife food and cover. Canadian geese migrating to the south feed on the seeds. Swamp rabbits and other birds, such as Florida cranes and ducks, also feed on Baldcypress. White-tailed deer escape to the cover of Baldcypress swamps during hunting season. Many animals find shelter in and around the base of large old-growth trees.

Central Kentucky Forest Edge:

Kentucky's forests and fields show that they were once prairie and savanna habitats. You can still see what is left of ash-oak savannahs, cedar glades, and prairie lands when traveling down roads that started out as buffalo trails. Most wildlife here is adapted to living in an open land or an "edge" habitat. An edge habitat means the area where grassland and forest meet. You'll find lots of wild things in and near Bur Oaks.

Bur Oaks grow well in the clay soil and open grassy areas of Central Kentucky; it is often planted in prairie grasslands because it doesn't mind dry habitats. This tree provides cover for many birds and small mammals, even in winter, since its leaves often stay on. Animals also use Bur Oak leaves and twigs as nest materials. Some of the animals which eat the acorns are Eastern Cottontail, White-footed Mouse, Eastern

Gray Squirrel, Blue Jay, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Mallard, Common Crow, Eastern Chipmunk, Raccoon and White-tailed Deer.

Eastern Kentucky Mountain Ridge: The forests in the mountains of this area of Kentucky are a mix of hardwood and evergreen trees. The soils are not too wet or dry and the weather is not too cold or hot. The soils here are made up of a lot of rotted leaves and wood that soak up rainwater so the soil stays moist. The hills in this forested area serve as important watersheds where many rivers and creeks start. An important tree to the wild things in eastern Kentucky is the American Beech.

American Beech fruit, called Beechnuts, are an important food source for many animals, including: Red Fox, Raccoon, Virginia Opossum, Squirrels, Eastern Chipmunk, Beaver, White-tailed Deer, Eastern Cottontail, Mice, Wild Turkey, Bluejay, Northern Bobwhite, Woodpeckers, Ducks, and others. American Beech provides cover for many animals, and is a favorite nesting site of chickadees.

Vernal Pool: Vernal pools can be found in any sunken place where water can collect without draining away. These pools are usually not deep and don't hold water all year long. Fish don't live in them since they eventually dry up which is good news for amphibians like frogs and salamanders, because without fish to eat their eggs or babies, these pools become nurseries for amphibians to raise their young. Vernal pools many times occur where a tree has

fallen, leaving a hole where the root ball was. Sugar Maples are a favorite tree for wild things in Kentucky.

Sugar Maples like cool, moist climates. Near a vernal pool is a likely place to find this tree. Young Sugar Maple trees are one of the favorite foods of White-tailed Deer. Seeds are eaten by squirrels and birds. Bees and butterflies, such as Tiger Swallowtails and Mourning Cloaks visit Sugar Maple flowers. Sugar Maples engage in hydraulic lift, drawing water from lower soil layers and exuding that water into upper, drier soil layers. This not only benefits the tree itself but also many other plants growing around it.

WILD THINGS

Crave Creature Comforts Too

When we talk about "wildlife habitat" we're talking about places where creatures can live comfortably. Like us, they need basic things—food, shelter, clean air and water—but sometimes they need specific kinds of plants, terrain or other special conditions to really thrive and reproduce.

Increasingly, development projects continue to reduce wildlife habitats. And sometimes they can't live on other pieces of land because those places don't have the right conditions. Loss of habitat is one of the greatest threats to endangered species. That's why it's so important for humans to make wise decisions about how we use the land.



Wetlands & Wildlife

"Wetlands" is the term used to describe areas where the soils are saturated with water or there is standing water for long enough periods for the area to support wetland vegetation such as water lilies, cattails, sedges, bulrushes, reeds, willows, sweetgum, pin oak, willow oak, and bald cypress. Wetlands are often referred to as swamps, marshes, sloughs, wet meadows, river bottoms, or bogs and may be as large as the Florida Everglades or as small as a wet spot in a field. Wetlands also are beneficial in storing flood water and capturing pollutants carried by runoff, such as excessive chemical fertilizer, animal waste and sediments.

When it comes to converting sunlight into plant material, wetlands are among the most productive places on earth. A cattail marsh may yield up to 12 tons of plants per acre per year. Spring flooding adds oxygen and other nutrients to the wetland soils and increased decomposition and fertility result.

More plants also means more animals. The diversity of plant and animal life produces a complex food web. Waterfowl, muskrats and swamp rabbits thrive on acorns, arrowhead and pondweeds. Snapping turtles and peregrine falcons prey on ducklings, while cottonmouth moccasin snakes enjoy rabbit dinners. Insects quickly multiply in wetlands. Water boatman collect tiny algae particles for food. In turn, boatman are eaten by young fish. Male mosquitoes drink cattail juices. Female mosquitoes need nutritious blood to lay eggs. Frogs, dragonflies and prothonotary warblers enjoy mosquito munchies.

In addition to serving as a food source, the dense vegetation found in most wetlands provides places for wildlife to build homes and

hide from predators. While many species live in wetlands year-round, others use wetlands for only a brief period of the year to complete their life cycle. Kentucky wetlands, for example, provide a migrational staging and wintering area for many species, including mallards, northern pintails and wood ducks; wading birds such as great blue herons, great and snowy egrets; and shorebirds such as the greater and lesser yellowlegs, white-rumped sandpiper and American woodcock.

Wetland Adaptations

Some plants and animals are adapted to wetlands and have developed characteristics that help them survive. The greater bladderwort plant has sac-like formations on its leaves and stems where photosynthesis takes place. These bladders keep the cells floating near the water's surface to soak up sunlight. Sensitive trigger hairs open the bladder's trapdoor so the plant can capture and digest insects, thereby gaining nutrients like nitrogen.

The pie-billed grebe, also on Kentucky's endangered species list, has lung-like air sacs throughout its body which fill to help the bird float and empty to submerge. More hemoglobin in grebe blood means extra oxygen, so this diving duck can stay underwater longer in search of fish food.





FISH HANGOUTS

Where do fish live? If you say "in water," you're only partly correct. That would be the same as saying birds and mammals live "in the air."

Just as land animals require certain kinds of habitat to meet their basic needs, fish seek out specific spots in a lake, stream or pond — spots that provide them with the habitat they need.

Some fish, such as largemouth bass, spend most of their time near "structure" — objects or unusual features on the shoreline or the bottom in deeper waters. Examples of structure are tree stumps, aquatic weeds and underwater humps, trenches and rock piles. Other fish, such as white bass, are found in open water, sometimes near the middle of the lake.

Fish have many options for finding comfortable hangouts in the water. Since water temperatures drop in deeper water, fish such as rainbow trout, which prefer cool water, can drop down to the temperature they like. But bluegill, which are a warm water fish, will often be found in shallower, warmer water, where they don't mind temperatures in the 80s.

Just as rabbits often hide in brush piles or briar patches, most fish will seek out some kind of shelter, or cover. Cover, such as the top of a tree that has fallen into the water, provides needed shade and also food and protection from predators. Algae grow on the brush, attracting small algae-eating fish. This in turn draws larger fish-eating species such as bass or crappie. So in a brush pile or other shelter, a fish can find food, shade and protection — just about everything it needs.

GO EXPLORING

While exploring the West, Lewis and Clark catalogued species they encountered along the way.

Do you know what species live in your neck of the woods?

Have your own Lewis and Clark expedition and keep a list of the many wildlife species you see. Note where and what time of the year you see it. If you need help, go to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov/kfwis/speciesInfo/speciesInfo.asp and search by county.

Make a CHRISTMAS Tree FOR YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

- Use thin twine or ribbon. Do not use fishing line or thread as birds could become tangled in it.
- String popcorn or cranberries.
- Mix one part peanut butter and one part yellow corn meal to spread on pinecones and attach to your tree.
- Spread bagels thinly with peanut butter, then sprinkle with small seeds such as millet, thistle or a finch mix.
- Attach ears of dried corn.
- String unsalted peanuts in the shell with thin twine or ribbon.
- Attach whole, dried sunflower heads.

Use holiday cookie cutters to make ornaments. Cut shapes from white or whole wheat bread. Make a hole on top before bread dries. When dried out, spread with peanut butter, sprinkle with birdseed and pull thin twine or ribbon through hole.





White-tailed Deer Another Success Story

What do bald eagle, copperbelly water snake, Cumberland bean mussel, elk, lake sturgeon, osprey, peregrine falcon, pink mucket mussel, river otter, walleye, white-tailed deer and wild turkey have in common? They each have a successful restoration story in Kentucky!

During just 20 years of unregulated

hunting by settlers moving through Kentucky, our white-tailed deer populations were greatly diminished. In 1775, the first game laws were enacted by Virginia Colonial Legislature, which governed the Kentucky territory before statehood,

and settlers at Fort Boonesborough named Daniel Boone to head their "game committee." Over the years, various game laws were passed and amended, and various agencies were formed to enforce these laws but by 1916, there were fewer than 1,000 deer recorded in Kentucky. And so our General Assembly prohibited deer hunting altogether – although poaching continued, further reducing the number.

In 1919, Kentucky received its first load of 30 white-tails from Wisconsin and the restoration program began. Through public cooperation, efficient wildlife law enforcement and the devotion of wildlife biologists to this project, deer populations in Kentucky have recovered to a sustainable level statewide. Today, hunters and their families can once again enjoy venison at the dinner table and wildlife enthusiast can view deer in their natural settings across Kentucky.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Do you know what else is located in every county in the state? Conservation Districts! For more than 60 years, Kentucky's 121 Conservation Districts (there are 2 districts in Logan County) have been made up of locally elected boards that develop plans to help communities grow while still protecting our soil and water for the fish and wildlife of the state.

These boards assist farmers with conservation plans that reduce soil erosion and control silt and other contaminants from entering ponds, lakes and streams. Certain practices such as grass waterways, strip cropping, adding fences or adding trees will attract wildlife and provide their basic needs such as shelter, nesting and food. Another practice that supports wildlife is crop rotation.

During the winter, farmers will leave the crop residue left over from harvesting. In doing that, wildlife can feed off of the estimated 2 to 3 bushels of grain that is left over.

Many farm ponds that support fish have been constructed all over the state. The small lakes built in Kentucky's small watershed program prevent floods, control silt in the streams below and can be used as fishing.

The biggest job that the conservation districts have is educating the public about the importance of soil and water conservation. They work with school, civic groups and various other groups to get the conservation district message out.

For more information visit: conservation.ky.gov/Pages/ConservationDistricts.aspx

DID YOU KNOW?

Kentucky is one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet (biologically diverse = many different kinds of organisms). We have species and ecosystems that are unique to Kentucky and found nowhere else in the world. And each region of Kentucky has organisms and ecosystems that are unique to only that region.



Where Kentucky's **WILD THINGS** are.....

Contest sponsored by the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

The 2011 Conservation Writing Contest is designed for Kentucky students grades 6-12, and the Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest is for students 1-5.

State Winners

First - \$250 check
Second - \$150 check
Third - \$50 check

Regional Winners

\$50 check

County Level Winners

\$25 check

** State and Regional winners will receive a personalized plaque and certificate. County winners that win regional or state awards will only receive one check for the top prize.*

RULES

1. All Kentucky students grades 6-12 are eligible to compete in the writing contest. Only students through grade 5 may compete in the art contest. Previous winners of the first-place state award are not eligible to enter that same contest.

2. A student may not enter both the Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest and the Conservation Writing Contest during the same school year.

3. An entry must be created by one and only one student. Any entry submitted by more than one student will be disqualified.

4. All entries become property of the contest sponsors. The decisions of the judges at all levels of competition are final.

5. **WRITING:** entry may not exceed 1,000 words and must be written in ink or typed on one side of paper only. No photographs or artwork may be included with the written work. It is suggested that the written entry take the form of transactive writing (from the perspective of an informed writer to a less informed reader) and may be in the form of a letter, feature article, editorial or speech. It should persuade the reader to take action toward good wildlife conservation practices.

6. **ARTWORK:** shall be 9"x12". Any thickness or color of art board may be used. Art paper may be used, but must be pasted onto art board or cardboard before submitting for competition. NO plywood will be accepted. Artwork may be rendered in any medium: pencil, ink, charcoal, crayon, oil, etc., but it must be flat art. 3-D art is unacceptable; however, collages or other art pasted onto your board will be accepted as long as it is flat art pasted securely to the poster board. An art entry may take the form of poster, newspaper advertisement or editorial cartoon-making sure that whatever form is used the artwork conveys a message at a glance that persuades its viewers to take action toward good wildlife conservation practices.

7. The top three writing entries and/or artworks from your school must be submitted to your local county conservation district by December 1, 2011.

8. The official entry form must be completed and secured to the back of your entry.

POINT SYSTEM FOR WRITING

- 30 points - Purpose/Audience (establishes and maintains a purpose, communicates with audience, employs a suitable voice and/or tone)
- 20 points - Organization (logical order, coherence, transition organizational signals)
- 20 points - Idea, Development/Support (degree to which writer provides thoughtful, detailed support to develop main idea(s) including evidence of research)
- 10 points - Correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization)
- 10 points - Language (word choice, usage)
- 10 points - Sentences (varied in structure and length, constructed effectively, complete and correct)

POINT SYSTEM FOR ARTWORK

- 50 points - Purpose/Audience (appropriate communication style to reach audience, establishes and maintains a purpose, holds to subject in community)
- 25 points - Theme clearly conveyed at a glance
- 25 points - Language/Correctness (word choice, usage, spelling, punctuation, capitalization)

HELPFUL HINTS

- Keep entry simple and sincere.
- Be creative and original. Avoid plagiarism by using original words and ideas.
- Consider an area of wildlife conservation or quality that is important to you, your family and your community.
- Draw from your personal interests or experiences.
- Writing entry should take the form of transactive.
- Think about wildlife conservation or issues in your community-be it farm, subdivision or city block.
- DO NOT use the "Where Kentucky's Wild Things Are" document as your only source.
- Interview people in your community about changes in wildlife conservation practices or wildlife quality issues.

- Find ways to conserve and improve wildlife quality in your community. TAKE ACTION!

The Division of Conservation acknowledges and thanks the following organizations and agencies for their support:

Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation; Kentucky Assoc of Conservation Districts; Division of Forestry; Energy and Environment Cabinet; Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Division of Water; Department of Education; Department of Libraries and Archives; United States Natural Resources Conservation Service; University of Kentucky Department of Forestry; Kentucky State Nature Preserves, Bluegrass PRIDE

Where Kentucky's **WILD THINGS** are.....

2011 Contest Entry Form

Name (Miss, Mr) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

County _____

School _____

School Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School Phone () _____

I hereby certify that this entry is the original work of

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature (required)

Teacher or Principal's Signature (required)